

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON

FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN 5127 ACTION SECSTATE DATED 18 OCT 75
QUOTE

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DEPT PASS ALL DIPLOMATIC POST

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, UNGA, PFOR

SUBJECT: THIRD CMTE BRANDS ZIONISM AS FORM OF RACISM

1. AFTER LONG AND HEATED PROCEDURAL WRANGLE THIRD COMMITTEE
ADOPTED RESOLUTION BRANDING ZIONSIM AS A DORM OF RACISM BY
VOTE OF 70-29(US)-27. THIS RESULT ACHIEVED ONLY AFTER VICIOUS
ARAB STEAMROLLER PUSHED COMMITTEE TO DECISION.

2. A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING SEVERAL AFRICANS AND MEMBERS
OF WEO GROUP, SOUGHT THROUGH FORCE OF LANGAAGE, RATIONALITY, AND A
SENSE OF HUMAN DECENCY TO OVERCOME ARAB AND CUBAN FILLIBUSTER. THEIR
EFFORTS FAILED, BUT THEY WERE MADE WITH COURAGE AND CONVICTION.
ON THE KEY VOTE TO DEFER RESOLUTION UNTIL NEXT YEAR THE MAJORITY OF
AFRICAN STATES EITHER VOTE WITH US OR ABSTAINED.

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3. AS THE EVENTS INVOLVED HAVE UTMOST IMPORTANCE, THEY WILL BE FULLY

COVERED IN SUBSEQUENT TELEGRAM.

4. TEXT OF US STATEMENT, DELIVERED IN CHARGED ATMOSPHERE AND FOLLOWED WITH FIXED ATTENTION, FOLLOWS:

QUOTE

STATEMENT BY LEONARD GARMENT, UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE, IN COMMITTEE THREE, ON EQUATING ZIONISM WITH RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, OCTOBER 17, 1975.

MY DELEGATION HAS READ THE NEW PROPOSAL BEFORE US. IT IS UNUSUALLY STRAIGHTFORWARD. IT ASKS TO DETERMINE "THAT ZIONISM IS A FORM OF RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION."

AS SIMPLE AS THIS LANGUAGE IS, WE ARE CONCERNED THWT WHAT MAY NOT BE FULLY UNDERSTOOD IS THAT THIS RESOLUTION ASKS US TO COMMIT ONE OF THE MOST GRIEVOUS ERRORS IN THE 30-YEAR LIFE OF THIS ORGANIZATION.

THIS COMMITTEE IS PREPARING ITSELF, WITH DELIBERATION AND FORE-KNOWLEDGE, TO PERFORM A SUPREME ACT OF DECEIT, TO MAKE A MASSIVE ATTACK ON THE MORAL REALITIES OF THE WORLD.

UNDER THE GUISE OF PROGRAM TO ELIMINATE RACISM THE UNITED NATIONS IS AT THE POINT OF OFFICIALLY ENDORSING ANTI-SEMITISM, ONE OF THE OLDEST AND MOST VIRULENT FORMS OF RACISM KNOWN TO HUMAN HISTORY. THIS DRAFT EXPLICITLY ENCOURAGES THE RACISM KNOWN AS ANTI-SEMITISM ENEN AS IT WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE THAT IT WORDS WILL LEAD TO THE ELIMINATION OF RACISM.

I CHOOSE MY WORDS CAREFULLY WHEN I SAY THAT THIS IS AN OBSCENE ACT. THE UNITED STATES PROTEST THIS ACT. BUT PROTEST ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH. IN FAIRNESS TO OURSELVES WE MUST ALSO ISSUE A WARNING. THIS RESOLUTION PLACES THE WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN JEOPARDY.

THE LANGUAGE OF THIS RESOLUTION DISTORTS AND PERVERTS. IT CHANGES WORDS WITH PRECISE MEANINGS INTO PURVEYORS OF CONFUSION. IT DESTROYS THE MORAL FORCE OF THE CONCEPT OF RACISM, MAKING IT NOTHING MORE THAN AN EPITHET TO BE FLUNG ARBITRAROLY AT ONE'S ADVERSARY. IT BLINDS US TO AREAS OF AGREEMENT AND DISAGREEMENT, AND DEPRIVES US LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE CLARITY OF VISION WE DESPERATELY NEED TO UNDERSTAND AND RESOLVE THE DIFFERENCES AMONG US. AND WE ARE HERE TO OVERCOME OUR DIFFERENCES, NOT TO DEEPEN THEM.

ZIONISM IS A MOVEMENT WHICH HAS AS ITS CONTEMPORARY THRUST THE PRESERVATION OF THE SMALL REMNANT OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE THAT SURVIVED THE HORRORS OF A RACIAL HOLOCAUST. BY EQUATING ZIONISM WITH RACISM, THIS RESOLUTION DISCREDITS THE GOOD FAITH OF OUR JOINT EFFORTS TO

FIGHT ACTUAL RACISM. IT DISCREDITS THESE EFFORTS MORALLY AND IT CRIPPLES THEM POLITICALLY.

THE LANGUAGE OF THE RESOLUTION HAS ALREADY DISRUPTED OUR EFFORTS HERE TO WORK TOGETHER ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACISM AND IT WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. ENCOURAGING ANTI-SEMITISM AND GROUP HOSTILITY, ITS ADOPTION WOULD BRING TO AN END OUR ABILITY TO COOPERATE ON ELIMINATING RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AS PART OF THE OFFICIAL WORK OF THE DECADE.

ONCE AGAIN OUR FAILURE TO REASON TOGETHER HAS ENCOURAGED SOME DELEGATIONS TO EXPLOIT OUR COLLECTIVE SHORTCOMINGS AND INDIVIDUAL VULNERABILITIES AND IMPEDE OUR ATTEMPTS TO FURTHER THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS.

THE UNITED NATIONS, THROUGHOUT ITS 30-YEARS HISTORY, HAS NOT LIVED BY THE FORCE OF MAJORITIES; IT HAS NOT LIVED BY THE FORCE OF ARMS. IT HAS LIVED ONLY--I REPEAT, ONLY--BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN THOUGHT THAT THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD, ASSEMBLED TOGETHER, WOULD GIVE VOICE TO THE MOST DECENT AND HUMAN INSTINCTS OF MANKIND. FROM THIS THOUGHT HAS COME THE MORAL AUTHORITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, AND FROM THIS THOUGHT ITS INFLUENCE UPON HUMAN AFFAIRS.

ACTION LIKE THIS DOES NOT GO UNNOTICED. THEY DO NOT SUCCEED WITHOUT CONSEQUENCES, MANY OF WHICH WHILE ONLY IMPERFECTLY PERCEIVED AT THE TIME SOON BECOME AN INERADICABLE PART OF NEW AND REGRETTABLE REALITY. LET US MAKE NO MISTAKE: AT RISK TODAY IS THE MORAL AUTHORITY WHICH IS THE UNITED NATIONS' ONLY ULTIMATE CLAIM FOR THE SUPPORT OF OUR PEOPLES.

THIS RISK IS AS RECKLESS AS IT IS UNNECESSARY. BUT IT IS STILL AVIODABLE.

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ACCORDINGLY THE UNITED STATES WILL SUPPORT RESOLUTIONS A AND B. WE SUPPORT, WITHOUT RESERVATION, THE WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. WE HAVE TAKEN PART IN THESE VITALLY IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES IN THE PAST AND WANT TO BE ABLE TO DO SO WITHOUT OBSTRUCTION IN THE FUTURE. WE WILL VOTE AGAINST THE THIRD RESOLUTION. WE CALL UPON OTHER DELEGATIONS TO DO LIKEWISE.

ON ITS ADOPTION THE THIRD RESOLUTION BECOMES INSEPARABLY LINKED TO THE FIRST TWO. THEREFORE, IF ALL THREE ARE SENT TO PLENARY THE UNITED STATES WILL VOTE AGAINST ALL THREE AT THAT TIME. UNQUOTE
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